
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact:

Maryland Board of Elections
151 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 269-2840 (voice)
(800) 222-8683 (toll-free)
(410) 974-2019 (fax)
or Relay Service: (800) 735-2258

If the Maryland Board of Elections is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote

MARYLAND



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I am incarcerated in Maryland?

If you are a resident of Maryland, and you have been convicted of theft or other infamous crime, or of buying or selling votes, you cannot vote in Maryland elections while you are incarcerated. Infamous crime means any felony, treason, perjury, or any crime involving an element of deceit, fraud or corruption. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Maryland, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot for your home state. Consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

In Maryland, if you are a first time offender for theft or infamous crime, other than buying or selling votes, your right to vote is automatically

restored upon completion of your sentence, including any probation or parole.

If you have been convicted of two or more such crimes, you are not eligible to vote unless and until you obtain a pardon.

If you were convicted of buying or selling votes, you are permanently prohibited from voting in Maryland.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you are a resident of Maryland, the same rules apply whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for Maryland voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

How do I obtain a pardon?

If you were convicted in Maryland state court, you can apply to the Governor of Maryland to seek a pardon:

Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-3901 (voice)
(410) 974-3275 (fax)

If you were convicted in another state, you should contact the Governor's office of that state to determine what procedures apply. If you were convicted of a federal crime, you may contact:

Office of Pardon Attorney
United States Department of Justice
500 First Street, N.W., 4th floor
Washington, D.C. 20530

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Maryland's voter registration requirements?

To vote in Maryland, you must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age, and you must submit your registration application by 9:00 p.m. at least 25 days before the election in which you wish to vote.

When do I need to register to vote?

Registration is available year-round in Maryland. To be eligible to vote in an upcoming election, you must register at least 25 days prior to the election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Maryland, including:

- County Board of Elections
- State Department of Health offices
- Social Services Administration offices
- Motor Vehicle Administration offices
- Offices on Aging
- Many other public buildings